

CONDUCTING SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me first express the sentiment that I know is shared by the entire Senate family in expressing our concern and our admiration for Senator FRIST and his staff. Having been through this ordeal in another form a couple of years ago, I know the difficulty it presents personally to staff and to families of staff, and I know we are probably in a better position to confront these challenges today than we were 2 years ago. But we speak with one voice in expressing our concern for those staff and our optimism about our ability to successfully confront this challenge as we did 2 years ago.

I know this has been a long 24 hours for the majority leader. He had a late night the night before, and then last night it would not surprise me if he got no sleep at all. So he is working on little sleep, and I appreciate his report this morning.

Obviously, we have a number of decisions to make over the course of the day, and I will consult with him. I do hope, to the extent it is practicable, that we use this opportunity to continue the debate on highways. We do not have a lot of time, and I know each day is valuable from that perspective. But we also want to be practical, recognizing if the offices are closed, it will be hard for Senators and their staff to do work related to the highway bill. I look forward to consulting and working with the distinguished majority leader as we deal with the necessity this situation has presented to us.

Mr. President, I know colleagues on both sides of the aisle are interested in the schedule. I know the majority leader had announced that there will be caucus lunches. I want to make sure people understand, we will have our normally scheduled caucus lunch today. Both the Democrats and Republicans will be meeting. They will be held in the same location.

I yield the floor.

PROVISION FOR EMERGENCY AUTHORITY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to a resolution at the desk regarding emergency authority; provided, further, that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 296) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 296

Resolved, That the Presiding Officer of the Senate may suspend any proceeding of the Senate, including a roll call vote or a quorum call, and declare a recess or adjournment of the Senate subject to existing authorities or subject to the call of the Chair, within the limits of article I, section 5, clause 4, of the Constitution, whenever the

Presiding Officer has been notified of an imminent threat.

SEC. 2. When the Senate is out of session, the Majority and Minority Leaders, or their designees, may, acting jointly and within the limits of article I, section 5, clause 4, of the Constitution, modify any order for the time or place of the convening of the Senate when, in their opinion, such action is warranted by intervening circumstances.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

COMMENDING THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will take a moment.

I commend both the Republican and Democratic leaders for opening the Senate today. I was recollecting, as I came in, we had another majority leader from Tennessee, Howard Baker—the Democrat leader was ROBERT BYRD; both distinguished friends and colleagues—and there had been an explosive device put outside the Capitol one evening, something that could not be done today because there are changes in our security. But the majority leader recessed that evening—it was going to be a late-night session. We adjourned a little earlier than we anticipated because we had worked out something and needed time for drafting and worked out a logjam we had, and there was an explosive device put out—and the distinguished Presiding Officer remembers this time very well because he was also serving here, as I was, at the time—blowing out both the Republican and Democratic cloakrooms. There would have been great casualties had we been there. The next morning, as I recall, nearly 90 Senators were sitting in their seats. We came back in basically to say: Nothing is going to close us down.

So I commend my dear friend from Tennessee and my dear friend from South Dakota for opening up this session. I think this is a symbol of democracy throughout the whole world. Certainly in our country, the most obvious symbol of democracy is this Capitol Building. Every time we stay open, as we have after 9/11 and everything else, it demonstrates the leadership of our two leaders but also of the devotion to democracy we see in this Chamber.

That is all I am going to say. That is why I am here this morning. I wanted to compliment both of the leaders for opening up this session.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

SENATE STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I do want to briefly comment on the families of the individuals who were potentially exposed yesterday. It is an inconvenience because you are waiting for tests and you are doing screening tests that have a certain meaning in terms of sensitivity, specificity. We are waiting for

results to get back, and you hear about the potential harm these poisons can do. I express my real sympathies to the families and the individuals affected.

We had a conference call. We were all together last night by telephone until the early hours of this morning. We had another conference call at 8:45 this morning, and we will continue to be in touch with all the people who could have potentially been affected. Again, we think about them and their families.

We will be having our policy lunches today. Both sides of the aisle will conduct their policy lunches in the usual fashion.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who seeks recognition?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. We are in morning business, with 30 minutes under the control of the Senator from Florida, Mr. GRAHAM.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would be glad to yield to the Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. I say to the Senator, when I take the floor, I am going to be here for about 30 minutes. If the Senator has something he would like to say prior to that, I will yield.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Florida for the forewarning.

I ask the Chair, the Senator from Florida is going to speak for 30 minutes. How much time would I be allocated in morning business?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. One minute.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the Senator from Illinois will yield, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Illinois be recognized for up to 10 minutes, and that there be equal time on the other side to match that, if that is necessary.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator is recognized for 10 minutes.

May the Chair inform the Senator from Nevada, under the previous order the remaining time will be under the control of the majority leader. The time for Senator GRAHAM has expired. The Chair suggests the Senate might consider its time.

Mr. REID. I appreciate the counsel of the Presiding Officer. Because of the